

# QUAPAW NATION

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October 23, 2019

Hon. Mike Bost  
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U.S. House of Representatives  
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Hon. William Lacy Clay  
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U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

*Re: Support for the Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historical Park Act*

Dear Reps. Bost, Clay, Davis, Shimkus, Schakowsky, Rush and LaHood:

Next week, the House Committee on Natural Resources will hold a legislative hearing on H.R.3824, the *Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historical Park Act*, legislation you introduced earlier this year. With this letter, I wish to note the Quapaw Nation of Oklahoma's strong support for this important measure.

If enacted, the legislation will preserve and interpret for present and future generations, the historical, cultural and natural resources associated with the life of the Mississippian Culture by establishing a National Historical Park in certain counties in the states of Illinois and Missouri.

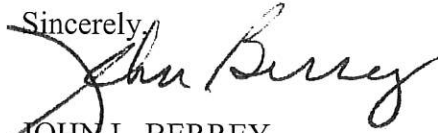
The famous Cahokia Mounds are the site of a pre-Columbian city of enormous size and sophistication that thrived in the years 1000 to 1400 in the area of present day Illinois and Missouri, lying directly across the Mississippi River from St. Louis, MO.

The Mounds are part of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites and are considered the largest and most complex archaeological sites north of the great ancient cities of Tenochtitlan, Teotihuacan, and Chichen Itza in present day Mexico.

Under the legislation to be considered, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with the states, colleges, universities, non-profits, Indian tribes and individuals to "mark, interpret, and restore nationally significant historic or cultural and natural resources relating to the life of the Mississippian Culture."

This long-overdue --- and much-needed --- legislation will ensure that future generations of Americans will get a fuller understanding of the Mississippian Culture and people, and provide a lasting educational and cultural tribute to this part of American history and archaeology.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this letter, and if you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,  
  
JOHN L. BERREY  
Chairman  
Quapaw Nation Business Committee

cc: Hon. Raul Grijalva, Chairman  
Hon. Rob Bishop, Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources

Hon. Deb Haaland, Chairwoman  
Hon. Don Young, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands